CLAIMS

1. A tax calculation architecture, comprising:

an interface for receiving tax calculation requests in an industry standard format;

a plurality of tax calculators, wherein each tax calculator includes an interface for receiving calculator-specific requests in a non-industry standard format; and

a translator for translating the tax calculation requests from the industry standard format to a format required for one of the plurality of tax calculators.

2. The tax calculation architecture of claim 1, further comprising an isolation layer residing between the interface and the plurality of tax calculators, wherein the isolation layer includes:

a database for storing customer-specific extensions and rules;

a customer extension manager for interpreting and managing customer-specific extensions; and

a system for selecting one of the plurality of tax calculators.

3. The tax calculation architecture of claim 2, wherein the tax calculator is selected based on a rule defined the in the database.

4. The tax calculation system of claim 1, wherein the industry standard format comprises 3Y4 XML.

5. The tax calculation system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the tax calculators is for a specific geographic region.

6. The tax calculation system of claim 1, further comprising an update system for updating customer-specific extensions and rules.

7. The tax calculation system of claim 1, wherein the interface for receiving tax calculation requests is callable via a network.

8. A program product stored on a recordable medium for processing tax calculation requests, comprising:

an interface for receiving tax calculation requests in an industry standard format; and

a translator for translating the tax calculation requests from the industry standard format to a format required for one of a plurality of tax calculators, wherein each tax calculator includes an interface for receiving calculator-specific requests in a non-industry standard format.

9. The program product of claim 8, further comprising an isolation layer residing between the interface and the plurality of tax calculators, wherein the isolation layer includes:

a database for storing customer-specific extensions and rules;

a customer extension manager for interpreting and managing customer-specific extensions; and

a system for selecting one of the plurality of tax calculators.

10. The program product of claim 9, wherein the selection of the tax calculator is based on a rule defined the in the database.

11. The program product of claim 8, wherein the industry standard format comprises 3Y4 XML.

12. The program product of claim 8, wherein at least one of the tax calculators is for a specific geographic region.

13. The program product of claim 8, further comprising an update system for updating customer-specific extensions and rules.

14. The program product of claim 8, wherein the interface for receiving tax calculation requests is callable via a network.

15. A method for processing tax calculation requests, comprising:

receiving a tax calculation request in an industry standard format at a tax engine;

identifying and resolving customer-specific extensions in the request;

selecting one of a plurality of tax calculators to handle the request;

translating the request from the industry standard format to a calculator-specific format for the selected tax calculator; and

using the selected tax calculator to process the request in the calculator-specific format.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the tax engine resides on a computer network.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the selection of the tax calculator is based on a rule stored in a rules database.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the selection of the tax calculator is based on a geographic requirement.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the industry standard format comprises 3Y4 XML.